

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 30 through 44 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 through 29 have been canceled. Claims 30 and 43 are the only independent claims present in the application.

Drawing Objections

Figure 9 has been objected because it does not include the legend --Prior Art--. In response, a separate Request for Approval of Drawing Amendments is being filed concurrently herewith in which that legend is added to Figure 9.

In addition, the drawings are objected to because they include reference characters "2b' ", "2c", and "25". In response, reference character "2c" has been deleted from the drawings. In addition, reference number --2b'-- and --25-- have been inserted in the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that the objections to the drawings have been overcome.

Specification and Abstract of the Disclosure

The specification and the Abstract of the Disclosure have been amended to place the same in better form. In addition, the Abstract has been amended to conform more closely to the claims on file. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Disclosure Objections

The disclosure is objected to because of an informality noted by the Examiner. As noted here and above, the specification has been amended. In so doing, the informality noted by the Examiner has been addressed. Accordingly, the objection to the disclosure has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 through 29 are objected to because of informalities noted by the Examiner. As noted here and above, Claims 1 through 29 have been cancelled in lieu of newly-presented Claims 30 through 44. The newly-presented claims do not include the recitations underlying the objection to the originally filed claims. Accordingly, the objections are moot.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 through 5, 7, 12 through 19, 21, and 26 through 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,598,254 (Ikese, et al.).

In addition, Claims 11 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikesue, et al. '254 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,349 (Tsuji, et al.).

The rationale underlying each of the foregoing rejections is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections and solely to expedite the prosecution of the application. Claims 1 through 29 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejections are moot and further comment thereon is not necessary.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 6, 8 through 10, 20 and 22 through 24 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter for the reasons set forth in the Official Action. As above-noted, these claims have been cancelled. However, the subject matter of Claim 6 has been incorporated in Claim 30.

Claims Presented for Examination

Newly-presented independent Claim 30 is directed to a cartridge detachably mounted to an image forming apparatus and includes a feature corresponding to the allowable subject matter of Claim 6. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 30 is allowable over the art of record.

Independent Claim 43 is directed to a cartridge detachably mounted to an image forming apparatus. The cartridge includes a first container for containing a developer to be supplied into the image forming apparatus and a second container for

accommodating the developer collected from the image forming apparatus. The second container is disposed so as to cover a filling opening in the first container.

Tsuji, et al. discloses a toner storing container 13 including a toner outlet opening member 29 which permits discharge of toner from the cartridge into a copy machine. The Examiner characterizes Tsuji, et al. as disclosing a "filling port (28)," which is not correct. It is noted that Tsuji, et al. discloses a feature denoted by reference numeral 24 in the figures. However, Tsuji, et al. does not appear to discuss that feature. Tsuji, et al. is not understood to disclose or suggest a second container which is effective to cover a filling opening of a first container.

It is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 30 and 43 are allowable over the art of record.

In addition, Claims 31 through 42 and 44 are allowable by virtue of being dependent from an allowable claim and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed
to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wannisky', written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants

William M. Wannisky

Registration No. 28,373

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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